

hard not to feel paralyzed by the endless tragedy. But we must take action. I am proud to reflect on this body's efforts to pass the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which was signed into law by President Biden last month.

But we must do more, and we must continue to do all that we can to prevent these senseless tragedies from occurring in the first place. That is why this confirmation vote today was so crucial. The ATF is charged with enforcing our Nation's gun laws, but the Agency has been without a Senate-confirmed Director since 2015. How can that be? In a time when firearms have become the leading cause of death among children in our country, how can we expect the ATF to fully function without a permanent Director? Finally, thankfully, that changes today.

I know Steve personally, and I can attest not only to his strong work ethic, but to his extraordinary set of skills and professional experiences that will no doubt serve him well as ATF Director. Steve served on my Judiciary Committee staff as a detailee from the Department of Justice, a role requiring time-sensitive evaluations of a wide range of issues relating to criminal justice and law enforcement. I am grateful for his wise counsel during his 2 years on my staff, and I have taken a great deal of personal pride in observing all of his achievements and leadership roles he has held since that time.

Steve has spent more than two decades as a prosecutor within the Justice Department, and was confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, a position he held from 2009 to 2016. Over the course of his 30-year career, Steve has demonstrated that he is a dedicated, principled, law enforcement official who is highly qualified to take on this position. With the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Congress proved that it is not so paralyzed that it cannot take reasonable—rational—steps to confront the scourge of gun violence. The Senate can further prove that today by confirming Steve Dettelbach to lead the ATF. There could be no one more qualified for this position.

I regret that personal matters kept me from casting my vote in favor of Steve's confirmation today, but my enthusiastic support for his confirmation remains steadfast. I look forward to continuing that support by doing all that I can to ensure that Steve and the ATF have the resources they need to enforce our Nation's gun laws and protect our communities.

It is no easy task, but I know Steve is ready. And I stand ready to support him, and I urge all other Senators to do the same today.●

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmations of Executive Calendar No. 1036, Philip A.

Talbert, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California for the term of four years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PETE GAGNE

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Pete Gagne of Conway as June's Granite Stater of the Month. Pete is the owner of the Saco River Tubing Center, and this summer, he is spearheading the second Paddle for a Cause campaign to raise money for and lift up local Mount Washington Valley organizations.

Every Wednesday during the 11-week campaign, a portion of every tube, kayak, and rental sale from that day is donated to that week's chosen nonprofit. This year's organizations work on issues such as nature conservation, food insecurity, affordable housing, and service dogs for people with disabilities. Visitors can also pay extra to bring their dogs with them on river expeditions, with all proceeds going to the Conway Area Humane Society. Last year, Saco River Tubing donated over \$3,500.

The Paddle for a Cause program provides much-needed funds to local organizations that are a vital part of the Mount Washington Valley community and helps Granite Staters and tourists alike learn more about all that the vibrant Mount Washington Valley community has to offer.

In addition to fundraising and raising awareness about local organizations, the campaign has an educational component on nature conservation. This is especially important in New Hampshire, since the Granite State is home to many beautiful natural treasures. During every trip on the river, Saco River Tubing employees speak to guests about respecting wildlife and minimizing any negative impact to the ecosystems while on the water. This is particularly important given the influx in visitors that started when Granite Staters and tourists alike were looking for more outdoor activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pete's Paddle for a Cause not only gives back to the community through fundraising, but also educates people on taking care of our natural resources. Pete exemplifies the Granite State spirit of dedication to community, and I commend him for bringing people together to support critical causes. I know that his initiative will have lasting, positive effects for the Mount Washington Valley and the entire State.●

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER NOAH COLE AND OFFICER NICK GREENE

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, the Louisville Metro Police Department fields some of the finest officers this Nation has to offer. Nothing could be more

true of Officers Noah Cole and Nick Greene. On the evening of Monday, June 27, 2022, Officers Cole and Greene were starting their evening shift like any other night.

They stopped at Shorty's Food Mart on 18th Street and Broadway in the Russell neighborhood of West Louisville when they were alerted by an alarmed father. The gentleman told the officers that his daughter needed their help. The officers overcame a language barrier with the father and responded immediately to his plea.

They exited Shorty's and ran to the infant, who was in her mother's arms. Officer Greene quickly assessed the situation and determined that the infant was unconscious from choking. He administered back blows to the infant until the blockage was cleared. Simultaneously, Officer Cole contacted fire and EMS support to aid in the care of the infant. EMS personnel arrived on the scene and were able to further care for the infant and calm the parents.

The actions of these two officers directly saved the life of our most vulnerable citizen and stopped the worst-case scenario for any parent: burying their child. Officer Cole and Greene are servant leaders, an asset to the residents of Louisville, and a testament to the Louisville Metro Police Department. I am proud to salute officers Noah Cole, Nick Greene, and the entire Louisville Metro Police Department on a job well done.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN KODY JONES

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the courageous actions of a brave and heroic senior member of the Louisville Fire Department. On February 3, 2022, Captain Kody Jones, a 17-year veteran of the department, went above and beyond the call of duty to save the lives of four people: three adults and one small child.

Around 2 pm, a fire was reported at a home in the 100 block of Stevenson Avenue. Without hesitation, Captain Jones, who was on his way to work, responded to the scene. Once at the residence, Captain Jones safely rescued the four individuals without injury to them or to himself.

Captain Jones then instructed emergency dispatchers on essential details concerning the fire. Using his 17 years of experience, Captain Jones was able to direct responding units to the best position and angle of attack to fight the blaze. He also relayed the fire's size and position and the building's material composition. These details were instrumental in firefighters being able to stop the fire within 1 hour of being on the scene. Following these heroic actions, Captain Jones reported to the fire station to continue to serve on his assigned shift.

Captain Jones' actions that day were critical in saving four lives, minimizing structural damage, and containing the blaze. I salute Captain